



Stretching

by Don Roe

The campers are coming! Every year God chooses to stretch me outside of my comfort zone with challenges, new every year, that I must trust Him in handling. This year one of the stretches is that by giving Tj responsibility over the hiring and supervising of the summer missionaries, I am giving up one of the parts of the ministry I enjoy most to concentrate on the one I like least—office administration. This is all part of the succession plan to give him more responsibilities. Trusting God to execute His plans through another is just another opportunity to stretch my faith.

Having our faith stretched is the purpose of our summer ministry for campers and missionaries alike. Cabin leaders are forced to trust in God to meet the needs of the children that they could never accomplish on their own strength. Children are offered daily challenges that build their independence and self-confidence. They are presented with the reality of a living, loving God that wants to be vitally present in every area of their lives.

I gave my life to God when I was 19. I had been a cabin leader at camp since I was 15 but working through what being a Christian example for the boys looks like and

acknowledging that my goal was to hold up Jesus as the role model and realizing I had nothing of myself to offer them—only that I



The privilege of being "tortured" by the teens

was in the process of being changed by trusting God for my future. I was involved with Big Brothers at the time as well and striving to live transparently as a "new creation" in Christ with an 11 year old who would absolutely recognize any pretense in my interactions with him. Kids watch you closely so the changes I wanted in my life had to be real.

One of the most fulfilling examples of a camper being stretched was Paul. He went to church regularly but rebelled against any Christian teaching at camp—talking to the other kids during chapel and devotions and distracting them from hearing God. His cabin leader had no success reaching him that week and felt like a failure. After the 9 year old went home, however, we heard from the parents. They could not thank us enough because Paul had shown no interest in Christianity at home either and was dreaming of being a fighter pilot. After camp he told his parents he wanted to be a missionary "like his cabin leader" and fly other missionaries to places where the people need to know about Jesus. God changed the direction in his life 180 degrees. His stretching enlarges us.

Please pray with us as we live our lives before the campers this summer. God has always been faithful in bringing his chosen to Himself. We desire to be faithful in being stretched and used in ways that are often uncomfortable but witness that we are God's workmanship and desire to be conformed to His will.

Teach me to do your will, for you are my God. May your gracious Spirit lead me forward on a firm footing. For the glory of your name, O LORD...for I am your servant. Psalm 143



...because kids are worth it

Introducing...

Hi, my name is Mason Kehler, and I will be the head male cabin leader this summer. It was just last summer that I stepped on to the property of Gimli Bible Camp for the first time. I'd showed up only a half hour before the kids and had absolutely no clue where things were or who anyone was, besides TJ whom I'd met maybe twice prior. I'd done a lot of camp ministry before but, this was a whole new experience with different kids and different staff. The first couple days were quite rough, and I was starting to question why I'd come. I thought maybe I had lost my drive and passion for camp ministry as it had been a couple years since I'd been to camp. Then I saw the Lord do a miracle through a situation involving some stolen items and a very angry kid who suddenly became one of the happiest kids for the rest of the week.

It was that single moment that the Lord grabbed my attention and told me this is why you're here! My love and passion for working with kids coming from difficult circumstances was sparked and I left that week having the sense that God was not done using me at Gimli Bible Camp. It wasn't long after and TJ had tapped me on the shoulder telling me the camp was looking for a Male Discipleship Director and he told me to think about it. Over the past year I have prayed and had many meetings with TJ about the role. Heading into the summer we are

continuing to discern if this is Gods will and your prayers would also be appreciated as we seek what the Lord has planned for me.

As of right now I am focusing my attention on this summer of camp and am excited for what the Lord is going to do. Something God has been doing in my life is opening my eyes to see how big the harvest is. I'll be honest, my heart has felt burdened and heavy for the many lost people who are missing out on what it means to truly live. In the midst of this the Lord enlightened me to understand this Proverb in a deeper way. Proverbs 14:4 says, "without oxen a stable stays clean, but you need a strong ox for a large harvest." Yes, there is a large harvest, but taking a way time with God in prayer and devotion is not the answer. It might buy you a bit of time but come harvest season we need something much stronger than ourselves for a large harvest. In other words, if you want to see a large harvest don't forget the one who has the power to make it happen. The Lord is good and we are depending on him for the harvest this summer.



Prayer requests

- ✦ Many of our summer missionaries have given up jobs to minister here. Pray that their eyes will be opened to the blessings God has planned for them in response to their sacrifice.
- ✦ For endurance for our missionary team this summer and for times of meaningful rest.
- ✦ Praise for our full team of mature cabin leaders.
- ✦ That the Holy Spirit will stir hearts of many saints to intercessory prayer
- ✦ For those we are training in our LDP program to become passionate leaders for Jesus
- ✦ For the people new to their leadership roles this summer

- ✦ For our camp speakers. That the Lord would speak through them as they share the gospel to kids this summer
- ✦ That the missionaries will trust that God will meet the many needs of our campers
- ✦ For safety for campers and missionaries as we go about our summer activities
- ✦ For God's favour as we communicate with parents, social workers and government officials
- ✦ That no one that should be here would be distracted or prevented from attending camp
- ✦ That in all the activity God will be continually praised. He is so good!

...because kids are worth it

Another Summer Is Here!

by Jael Napoleon

This summer will be the 10th summer I've been involved with Gimli Bible Camp. God has used camp ministry in a mighty way to grow and shape me over the years. I think back to 16 year old Jael who first came to camp and how that first summer opened my eyes to the hurting kids in this world. And I knew that was what I always wanted to do from then on was minister to those kids. I had such a desire placed in me for kids to see the Father Heart of God. I had experienced my own big hurt with my dad and experienced the comfort of a the Perfect Heavenly one. I wanted these kids to see Him.

Then there was 19-year-old Jael. During that staff training before camp Don asked me to pray about being head female cabin leader. I had just prayed how I wanted to be stretched and grown that summer and that I wanted to contribute to the health of the cabin leaders. I took that radio and title with much fear and trembling. I was also a camp speaker that year and it was one of the most powerful and hardest weeks I had ever experienced.



Zadie is a kid-magnet :)



Now there is 25 year old Jael going into this summer ready for more challenges and growing. This winter was a hard one for me. I dealt with health issues and awaited surgery. I carried a broken heart in my ministry life dealing with some heavy issues with our campers. I was and am being challenged in my personal life in my lack of trust and unhealthy independence as I deal with issues from my childhood. But Yahweh is good. I went on a 2 month sabbatical to recover from my surgery that was thankfully largely beneficial as well a needed time of rest from some burnout. His steadfastness is amazing. As I pray for our new and old cabin leaders coming this summer. I pray they experience some incredible growing as He opens their eyes more to who He is. He has done that to me every new camp season. I get excited as I go through the list and think of the kids coming and the opportunity point them to the Savior. That they would see and know that He is God the Lord and be put in awe of His vast love for them.

"The Lord appeared to him from far away. I have loved you with an everlasting love; therefore, I have continued my faithfulness to you." Jeremiah 31:3

Summer is almost here, that's exciting and a little scary! We can plan and plan and plan, and still miss things, or don't have the resources, or don't have the leaders we need to make it happen. Very quickly I can go to two very different responses: I either will despair a little and start cutting back plans or I'll just power through and find a way to make it happen! Both are not great responses, and it reminds me where my foundation truly is!

What an incredible opportunity to share the Gospel for the 96th year at Gimli Bible Camp this summer. The Gospel is the foundation of our ministry! Standing on and bringing forth the Word of God. So the challenge this summer is to make the most of every opportunity to share the Good News of Jesus in Word and Deed! This is the hope for me this summer, and hopefully for you as well. When things seem to be going 'poorly' in my eyes this summer, or when activities are going very well, I desire to be very quick to pray in all circumstances for God to keep directing all things here for his Glory and not our own.

One of the best encouragements I have this

summer is that Jesus Christ is my Advocate. The Holy Spirit is my Advocate. That is profound and powerful. Wow!! Talk about a feeling of security!

John 14:26 But when the Father sends the Advocate as my representative—that is, the Holy Spirit—he will teach you everything and will remind you of everything I have told you.

1 John 2:1 My dear children, I am writing this to you so that you will not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate who pleads our case before the Father. He is Jesus Christ, the one who is truly righteous.

So this summer, I need to continually remind myself that I know my foundation is built on the Rock! When the storms come, or when the sun shines, I need to remember that we serve a God who is all I need. What an amazing gift he has given us, that both Jesus and the Holy Spirit are our advocates. Thank you Jesus! I am so excited to share with you this fall the testimonies of what God has done here at Gimli Bible Camp in the 96th summer!!



Camp Needs

- † Head cooks for a few more weeks
- † Life jackets, all sizes, especially 90-120 pounds
- † Commercial 12 liter slushy machine
- † 2' X 3' metal box with locking door for our lifeguard stand
- † Chain link fencing
- † 20-heavy duty curtain rods 4' long
- † Hamburger always needed
- † A photocopier
- † 8-ball pool balls
- † 2 person kayaks :)
- † Quad or Gator
- † Some small CD players
- † Coffee
- † Espresso machine :D
- † A paddle board

Donations very much appreciated. We subsidize over 500 young people to come to camp each year. It costs a lot, but *kids are worth it.*

E-transfer to gimli@onehopecanada.ca
Or by credit card through Zeffy on our website; gimlibiblecamp.com

Gimli Bible Camp
Box 1579 Gimli ROC 1B0
Phone: (204) 642-5707
Email: gimli@onehopecanada.ca
web: gimlibiblecamp.com

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